(d) The reasons for less production as compared to the target, *inter-alia*, include paucity of orders, obsolete technology, shortage of working capital, high cost of production, excessive manpower, etc.

High cost of Rabies injection

†*379. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cost of Rabies injection is too high in the country and it is beyond the reach of poor people and as a result common man has to face a lot of problems and many people die as they are not able to buy the Rabies injection;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any arrangement for providing Rabies injection at low cost to people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) State Governments are procuring Rabies Vaccines either Neural Tissue Vaccine (NTV) or Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) for supplying free of cost to the needy population through health care facilities. The State authorities have reported no cases of death occurring due to inability to buy anti-rabies vaccine.

In view of the WHO recommendations to phase out NTV and prefer the use of TCARV, the Government has initiated steps to augment the capacity of TCARV production and as well as exploring intra-dermal route of administration of TCARV in place of intra-muscular route for bringing down the quantum of dose and cost of the vaccine. Once the large-scale production of TCARV is achieved and alternate route of administration adopted, it expected that the vaccine would be availble at lower rates in the open market as well.

Identification of sensitive areas of dangerous diseases

*380. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has identified any sensitive areas in the country likely to be the source of many dangerous diseases like Dengue, Malaria, etc; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.